

FACT SHEET FOR STATE WASTE DISCHARGE PERMIT ST-8036
FACILITY NAME SPECIALTY MINERALS INC.

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INTRODUCTION

This fact sheet is a companion document to the draft State Waste Discharge Permit No. ST-8036. The Department of Ecology (the Department) is proposing to issue this permit, which will allow discharge of wastewater to Boise Cascade Corporation, Wallula Mill. This fact sheet explains the nature of the proposed discharge, the Department's decisions on limiting the pollutants in the wastewater, and the regulatory and technical bases for those decisions.

Washington State law (RCW 90.48.080 and 90.48.160) requires that a permit be issued before discharge of wastewater to waters of the state is allowed. Regulations adopted by the state include procedures for issuing permits and establish requirements which are to be included in the permit (Chapter 173-216 WAC).

This fact sheet and draft permit are available for review by interested persons as described in Appendix A—Public Involvement Information.

The fact sheet and draft permit have been reviewed by the Permittee. Errors and omissions identified in these reviews have been corrected before going to public notice. After the public comment period has closed, the Department will summarize the substantive comments and the response to each comment. The summary and response to comments will become part of the file on the permit and parties submitting comments will receive a copy of the Department's response. The fact sheet will not be revised. Changes to the permit will be addressed in Appendix D—Response to Comments.

GENERAL INFORMATION	
Applicant	Specialty Minerals Inc.
Facility Name and Address	Wallula Plant, P.O. Box 107, Wallula, Washington 99363
Type of Facility:	Manufacture of Precipitated Calcium Carbonate (SIC Code 2819)
Facility Discharge Location	Latitude: 46° 16' 06" N Longitude: 118° 54' 58" W.
Treatment Plant Receiving Discharge	Boise Cascade Corporation – Wallula Mill Wastewater Treatment System
Contact at Facility	Name: Sai Lee Telephone #: (509) 545-9777
Responsible Official	Name: Sai Lee Title: Plant Manager Address: P.O. Box 107, Wallula, Washington 99363 Telephone #: (509) 545-9777 FAX # (509) 545-9846

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

DESCRIPTION OF THE FACILITY

Specialty Minerals, Inc. is currently operating a plant for the manufacture of precipitate calcium carbonate in Wallula, Washington. It has applied to renew a State Waste Discharge Permit (No. ST-8036) to discharge its wastewater and stormwater drainage to the Boise Cascade Corporation, Wallula Mill for treatment. The treated wastewater would then be discharged to the Columbia River Mile 316. The Department has tentatively determined to issue this permit.

INDUSTRIAL PROCESSES

The mill produces precipitated calcium carbonate slurry. Product is pumped to storage facilities for shipment off-site.

PRETREATMENT PROCESSES

Prior to discharge to the Boise Cascade wastewater treatment plant, no pretreatment of process wastewater or stormwater drainage is required due to the inorganic composition of process constituents. The monthly average flows of this process water are expected to be 78,000 gallons per day.

PERMIT STATUS

The previous permit for this facility was issued on August 15, 1995. An application for permit renewal was submitted to the Department on June 13, 2000.

SUMMARY OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE PREVIOUS PERMIT

During the history of the previous permit, the Permittee has remained in compliance based on Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMRs) and other reports submitted to the Department.

WASTEWATER CHARACTERIZATION

The concentration of pollutants in the discharge was reported in the permit application and in discharge monitoring reports. The proposed wastewater discharge is characterized for the following parameters:

Parameter	Average Concentration
Total Suspended Solids	6100 mg/L
PH	9.5

SEPA COMPLIANCE

There are no SEPA requirements for this permit.

PROPOSED PERMIT LIMITATIONS

State regulations require that limitations set forth in a waste discharge permit must be based on the technology available to treat the pollutants (technology-based) or be based on the effects of the pollutants to the Boise Cascade Wallula Mill. Wastewater must be treated using all known, available, and reasonable treatment (AKART) and not interfere with the operation of the Boise Cascade's wastewater treatment plant.

TECHNOLOGY-BASED EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS

All waste discharge permits issued by the Department must specify conditions requiring available and reasonable methods of prevention, control, and treatment of discharges to waters of the state (WAC 173-216-110). The following permit limitations are necessary to satisfy the requirement for AKART:

The Permittee shall monitor the wastewater according to the following schedule:

Parameter	Sampling Frequency*	Sample Type*
Flow	Continuous Recording	Continuous Monitor
PH	Continuous Recording	Continuous Monitor
TSS	Daily	Daily Composite

* Continuous means uninterrupted except for brief lengths of time for calibration, for power failure, or for unanticipated equipment repair or maintenance.

EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS

In order to protect Boise Cascade Wallula mill from pass-through, interference, concentrations of toxic chemicals that would impair beneficial or designated uses of sludge, or potentially hazardous exposure levels, effluent limitations for certain parameters are necessary. Boise Cascade NPDES permit limitations will not increase the allowable discharge pollutants to the waters of the state; no additional discharge allowance will be made to Boise Cascade Corporation for treatment of the Specialty Minerals wastewater.

Pollutant concentrations in the proposed discharge with technology-based controls in place will not cause problems at the receiving treatment system such as interference, pass-through or hazardous exposure to Boise Cascade workers nor will it result in unacceptable pollutant levels in the Boise Cascade's sludge.

MONITORING REQUIREMENTS

Monitoring, recording, and reporting are specified to verify that the treatment process is functioning correctly, and that effluent limitations are being achieved (WAC 173-216-110).

The monitoring schedule is detailed in the proposed permit under Condition S2. Specified monitoring frequencies take into account the quantity and variability of the discharge, the treatment method, past compliance, significance of pollutants, and cost of monitoring.

OTHER PERMIT CONDITIONS

REPORTING AND RECORDKEEPING

The conditions of S3 are based on the authority to specify any appropriate reporting and recordkeeping requirements to prevent and control waste discharges (WAC 273-216-110 and 40 CFR 403.12 (e),(g), and (h)).

OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

The proposed permit contains condition S.5. as authorized under Chapter 173-240-150 WAC and Chapter 173-216-110 WAC. It is included to ensure proper operation and regular maintenance of equipment, and to ensure that adequate safeguards are taken so that constructed facilities are used to their optimum potential in terms of pollutant capture and treatment.

PROHIBITED DISCHARGES

Certain pollutants are prohibited from being discharged to the Boise Cascade's wastewater treatment system. These include substances which cause pass-through or interference, pollutants which may cause damage to the treatment plant or harm to its workers (Chapter 173-216 WAC) and the discharge of designated dangerous wastes not authorized by this permit (Chapter 173-303 WAC).

DILUTION PROHIBITED

The Permittee is prohibited from diluting its effluent as a partial or complete substitute for adequate treatment to achieve compliance with permit limitations.

SOLID WASTE PLAN

The Department has determined that the Permittee has a potential to cause pollution of the waters of the state from leachate of solid waste.

This proposed permit requires, under the authority of RCW 90.48.080, that the Permittee update the solid waste plan designed to prevent solid waste from causing pollution of the waters of the state and submit it to the Department.

NON-ROUTINE AND UNANTICIPATED DISCHARGES

Occasionally, this facility may generate wastewater which is not characterized in their permit application because it is not a routine discharge and was not anticipated at the time of application. These typically are waters used to pressure test storage tanks or fire water systems or leaks from drinking water systems. These are typically clean waste waters but may be contaminated with pollutants. The permit contains an authorization for non-routine and unanticipated discharges. The permit requires a characterization of these waste waters for pollutants and examination of the opportunities for reuse. Depending on the nature and extent of pollutants in this wastewater and opportunities for reuse, Ecology may authorize a direct discharge via the process wastewater outfall or through a stormwater outfall for clean water, require the wastewater to be placed through the facilities wastewater treatment process or require the water to be reused.

SPILL PLAN

The Department has determined that the Permittee stores a quantity of chemicals that have the potential to cause water pollution if accidentally released. The Department has the authority to require the Permittee to develop plans to prevent this accidental release under section 402(a)(1) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (FWPCA) and RCW 90.48.080.

The proposed permit requires the Permittee to develop and implement a plan for preventing the accidental release of pollutants to state waters and for minimizing damages if such a spill occurs.

*FACT SHEET FOR STATE WASTE DISCHARGE PERMIT ST-
FACILITY NAME SPECIALTY MINERALS INC.*

The Permittee has developed a plan for preventing the accidental release of pollutants to state waters and for minimizing damages if such a spill occurs. The proposed permit requires the Permittee to update this plan and submit it to the Department.

GENERAL CONDITIONS

General Conditions are based directly on state laws and regulations and have been standardized for all industrial waste discharge to industrial wastewater treatment plant permits issued by the Department.

Condition G1 requires responsible officials or their designated representatives to sign submittals to the Department. Condition G2 requires the Permittee to allow the Department to access the treatment system, production facility, and records related to the permit. Condition G3 specifies conditions for modifying, suspending or terminating the permit. Condition G4 requires the Permittee to apply to the Department prior to increasing or varying the discharge from the levels stated in the permit application. Condition G5 requires the Permittee to construct, modify, and operate the permitted facility in accordance with approved engineering documents. Condition G6 prohibits the Permittee from using the permit as a basis for violating any laws, statutes or regulations. Conditions G7 and G8 relate to permit renewal and transfer. Condition G9 requires the Permittee to control production or wastewater discharge in order to maintain compliance with the permit. Condition G10 prohibits the reintroduction of removed pollutants into the effluent stream for discharge. Condition G11 requires the payment of permit fees. Condition G12 describes the penalties for violating permit conditions.

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION OF NONCOMPLIANCE

A list of all industrial users which were in significant noncompliance with Pretreatment Standards or Requirements during any of the previous four quarters may be annually published by the Department in a local newspaper. Accordingly, the Permittee is apprised that noncompliance with this permit may result in publication of the noncompliance.

RECOMMENDATION FOR PERMIT ISSUANCE

This proposed permit meets all statutory requirements for authorizing a wastewater discharge, including those limitations and conditions believed necessary to control toxics. The Department proposes that the permit be issued for 5 years.

REFERENCES FOR TEXT AND APPENDICES

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A—PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT INFORMATION

The Department has tentatively determined to reissue a permit to the applicant listed on page 1 of this fact sheet. The permit contains conditions and effluent limitations which are described in the rest of this fact sheet.

The Department will publish a Public Notice of Draft (PNOD) on Wednesday, May 30, 2001 in Tri-City Herald in Kennewick to inform the public that a draft permit and fact sheet are available for review. Interested persons are invited to submit written comments regarding the draft permit. The draft permit, fact sheet, and related documents are available for inspection and copying between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. weekdays, by appointment, at the regional office listed below. Written comments should be mailed to:

Washington State Department of Ecology
Industrial Section
P.O. Box 47706
Olympia, Washington 98504-7706
Attention: Mr. Teddy Le

Any interested party may comment on the draft permit or request a public hearing on this draft permit within the thirty (30) day comment period to the address above. The request for a hearing shall indicate the interest of the party and reasons why the hearing is warranted. The Department will hold a hearing if it determines there is a significant public interest in the draft permit (WAC 173-216-100). Public notice regarding any hearing will be circulated at least thirty (30) days in advance of the hearing. People expressing an interest in this permit will be mailed an individual notice of hearing.

Comments should reference specific text followed by proposed modification or concern when possible. Comments may address technical issues, accuracy and completeness of information, the scope of the facility's proposed coverage, adequacy of environmental protection, permit conditions, or any other concern that would result from issuance of this permit.

The Department will consider all comments received within thirty (30) days from the date of public notice of draft indicated above, in formulating a final determination to issue, revise, or deny the permit. The Department's response to all significant comments is available upon request and will be mailed directly to people expressing an interest in this permit.

Further information may be obtained from the Department by telephone, ? , or by writing to the address listed above.

This permit was written by **Teddy Le**.

APPENDIX B—GLOSSARY

Bypass—The intentional diversion of waste streams from any portion of the collection or treatment facility.

Compliance Inspection - Without Sampling--A site visit for the purpose of determining the compliance of a facility with the terms and conditions of its permit or with applicable statutes and regulations.

Compliance Inspection - With Sampling--A site visit to accomplish the purpose of a Compliance Inspection - Without Sampling and as a minimum, sampling and analysis for all parameters with limits in the permit to ascertain compliance with those limits; and, for municipal facilities, sampling of influent to ascertain compliance with the 85 percent removal requirement. Additional sampling may be conducted.

Composite Sample—A mixture of grab samples collected at the same sampling point at different times, formed either by continuous sampling or by mixing discrete samples. May be “time-composite”(collected at constant time intervals) or “flow-proportional” (collected either as a constant sample volume at time intervals proportional to stream flow, or collected by increasing the volume of each aliquot as the flow increased while maintaining a constant time interval between the aliquots.

Construction Activity—Clearing, grading, excavation and any other activity which disturbs the surface of the land. Such activities may include road building, construction of residential houses, office buildings, or industrial buildings, and demolition activity.

Continuous Monitoring –Uninterrupted, unless otherwise noted in the permit.

Grab Sample—A single sample or measurement taken at a specific time or over as short period of time as is feasible.

Industrial Wastewater—Water or liquid-carried waste from industrial or commercial processes, as distinct from domestic wastewater. These wastes may result from any process or activity of industry, manufacture, trade or business, from the development of any natural resource, or from animal operations such as feed lots, poultry houses, or dairies. The term includes contaminated storm water and, also, leachate from solid waste facilities.

Interference— A discharge which, alone or in conjunction with a discharge or discharges from other sources, both:

Inhibits or disrupts the wastewater treatment system, its treatment processes or operations, or its sludge processes, use or disposal and;

Therefore is a cause of a violation of any requirement of the Boise Cascade’s NPDES permit (including an increase in the magnitude or duration of a violation) or of the prevention of sewage sludge use or disposal in compliance with the following statutory provisions and regulations or permits issued thereunder (or more stringent State or local regulations): Section 405 of the Clean Water Act, the Solid Waste Disposal Act (SWDA) (including title II, more commonly referred to as the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), and including State regulations contained in any State sludge management plan prepared pursuant to subtitle D of the SWDA),

sludge regulations appearing in 40 CFR Part 507, the Clean Air Act, the Toxic Substances Control Act, and the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act.

Method Detection Level (MDL)--The minimum concentration of a substance that can be measured and reported with 99% confidence that the analyte concentration is above zero and is determined from analysis of a sample in a given matrix containing the analyte.

Pass-through— A discharge which exits the wastewater treatment system into waters of the State in quantities or concentrations which, alone or in conjunction with a discharge or discharges from other sources, is a cause of a violation of any requirement of the Boise Cascade's NPDES permit (including an increase in the magnitude or duration of a violation), or which is a cause of a violation of State water quality standards.

pH—The pH of a liquid measures its acidity or alkalinity. A pH of 7 is defined as neutral, and large variations above or below this value are considered harmful to most aquatic life.

State Waters—Lakes, rivers, ponds, streams, inland waters, underground waters, salt waters, and all other surface waters and watercourses within the jurisdiction of the state of Washington.

Stormwater—That portion of precipitation that does not naturally percolate into the ground or evaporate, but flows via overland flow, interflow, pipes, and other features of a storm water drainage system into a defined surface water body, or a constructed infiltration facility.

Technology-based Effluent Limit—A permit limit that is based on the ability of a treatment method to reduce the pollutant.

Total Dissolved Solids—That portion of total solids in water or wastewater that passes through a specific filter.

Total Suspended Solids (TSS)--Total suspended solids is the particulate material in an effluent. Large quantities of TSS discharged to a receiving water may result in solids accumulation. Apart from any toxic effects attributable to substances leached out by water, suspended solids may kill fish, shellfish, and other aquatic organisms by causing abrasive injuries and by clogging the gills and respiratory passages of various aquatic fauna. Indirectly, suspended solids can screen out light and can promote and maintain the development of noxious conditions through oxygen depletion.

